

LASCA LEAVES



Los Angeles County Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens

BALDWIN KIN DONATES HISTORIC PORTRAITS

ANITA GIBSON, great-granddaughter of E. J. Baldwin, recently donated a collection of Baldwin family photographs and books to the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum. The materials had been packed away for decades following the death of Mrs. Gibson's mother, Dextra, who had been working on a Baldwin biography.

The collection includes three religious books, enscribed to Jennie Dexter, that Jennie's mother had given her for Christmas in 1872, three years before she met E. J. Baldwin.

The 35 studio portraits cover about a 70-year time span, documenting various Baldwin family members from childhood to maturity. The earliest is a photograph of Jennie at 16 taken in 1876. A later image in the collection probably served as the model for the larger-than-life oil painting of Jennie that now hangs in the parlor of the Queen Anne Cottage. Several remarkably detailed shots of E. J. Baldwin show him in his 80s, still looking vigorous and alert.

Edward Weston, the well-known California photographer, added his comments and signature on the back



of his study of Anita as a child. Other views show her as a woman and trace her daughter Dextra's development until the last photograph, taken sometime during the 1940s.

All the photographs have been put into the Arboretum archives where they will be available for reference and possible use in brochures. Sandra Snider, historical curator, plans to eventually frame several of the portraits and display them on a table or mantel in the Cottage, much as they would have been grouped in a typical late-Victorian parlor.

CCC RECEIVE PLAUDITS FOR ADOBE RESTORATION

THE CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS were praised by everyone who gathered at the Hugo Reid Adobe on May 24 to honor them for their work in restoring the building and the surrounding courtyard walls. For the past year, about 100 Corps members in rotating teams of 12 have been rebuilding and repainting the crumbling historical landmark.

Sarah Flores, representing Supervisor Peter F. Schabarum, presented them with a commendation from the Board of Supervisors and thanked

the Corps for "helping to preserve the heritage of the City of Arcadia, the First District of Los Angeles County and the county as a whole."

From a more practical perspective, Francis Ching, Arboretum director, noted that their work had saved the county a great deal of money. Nancy (Mrs. Charles) Baillie, vice president of the Board of Trustees, then unveiled a bronze plaque outlining the history of the Adobe from the time it was built in 1839 by Hugo Reid, reconstructed in 1958-60 by the State of California and finally restored by the CCC in 1983.



Sheila Thompson/Foothill Intercity Newspapers

CAF representative Nancy (Mrs. Charles) Baillie displays plaque honoring the hard work of the CCC.



James Johnson



Director Francis Ching addresses the CCC



The vegetable garden (right) in the Adobe patio show the rewards of Las Voluntarias' efforts. Sarah Flores, (below) representing Supervisor Pete Schabarum speaks highly of the Corps.



R. KIRK EVANS NAMED FOUNDATION PRESIDENT

THE CALIFORNIA ARBORETUM FOUNDATION named new officers for 1984-85 at a meeting June 19 with R. Kirk Evans unanimously elected president.



LuAnn B. Munns

R. Kirk Evans

Mr. Evans, who moved to Arcadia in 1981, was introduced to the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum by former Board of Trustees member, Charles Neuberg.

"When I first heard of the concept of the Arboretum and what it stands for, I decided it is very worthwhile," he said. He joined the Board and later became treasurer.

"I hope to have a good year. We have good committees and good people," he said. During his term Mr. Evans plans to lead the Foundation in expanding the scope of the Arboretum through further development of existing programs and initiation of several new projects. He expects to work on increasing CAF membership and building the endowment fund as well as continuing the education program that was developed last year. New projects that Arboretum visitors can expect to see take shape with the support of the CAF are a new koi pool planned for the Meadowbrook area and a visitors' orientation center near the Rotunda.

Mr. Evans views the gardens from a cosmopolitan perspective developed while he was living in San Francisco, London and Paris with his wife and their five children who range in age from three to 16 years. To accommodate his volunteer work as a Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop #115 and his career as vice president, finance for Gerald J. Sullivan & Associates in Los Angeles, Mr. Evans has begun to schedule committee meetings for the early morning hours.

Other officers elected at the June meeting include: James P. Curry, first vice-president; Frank Regan, second vice president; R. Bruce McCallum, secretary/treasurer.

COUNTY AWARD HONORS SOUTH COAST VOLUNTEER

IN THE TWO DECADES that Florence Siudmak has been volunteering at South Coast Botanic Garden, she has never asked for a thank you. Nonetheless, she received a vote of appreciation from all of Los Angeles County on May 11 when the Board of Supervisors chose her as one of 13 outstanding volunteers from more than 65 nominees in 1984. During the Volunteer of the Year Recognition Awards Ceremony, Supervisor Deane Dana presented the Arts, Sciences and Humanities Award to Mrs. Siudmak for her work at South Coast that began when there was still doubt that a botanic garden could be built over a landfill.

Starting as one of a handful of docents at the fledgling garden, Mrs. Siudmak worked in all phases including admissions, tours, gift shop and garden planning. In 1967, she became director of docents. As the Foundation grew, she began to specialize in the education programs.

She organized the "Discovery Walks" and the "Children's Day" events that gave both children and adults the chance to learn firsthand

about their natural surroundings.

In 1974, Mrs. Siudmak started the junior docent program, teaching senior Girl Scouts ecology and botany and methods for passing on that information to young Garden visitors. When the Foundation could no longer afford to sponsor an adult education program, she convinced Harbor Community College to take over.

She now has responsibility for registration, classroom reservations and instructors for classes Harbor sponsors at the Garden. With her urging, the college has expanded the program to include such popular classes as horticulture, plant identification and cultural classes. This summer she also initiated the col-

lege's first summer workshop program for children.

Formerly a member of the Foundation's Board of Trustees, Mrs. Siudmak is now on the Board of Governors for the Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens. She is one of the few original volunteers who continues to support the Garden with her efforts, even after she has gained the thanks and admiration of everyone who appreciates the Garden and its programs.

In 1983, Ruth Mary Larson, another member of the Board of Trustees, received an Outstanding Volunteer Award for her work at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum.



Florence Siudmak receives plaque from Supervisor Deane Dana as one of only 13 volunteers honored throughout the county.

Grants provide funds

New Computer System



A GRANT FROM the California Arboretum Foundation at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum paid for a new computer sys-

tem that promises permanent benefits to the Department, its employees and the public. The system purchased by the Foundation for

\$25,000 includes the hardware and a special software program for processing plant records.

Although a casual visitor may regard public gardens as only havens of beauty in the city, they actually play a vital role in preserving California's natural heritage. In a scientifically oriented botanic garden, research is constantly being carried out to test the adaptability and performance of plants in a specific locale. Plants in these outdoor laboratories must be accurately identified and easily found to be useful to the botanists, horticulturists and gardeners who come looking for a particular specimen. An up-to-date plant inventory will identify in a more readily available form the collections that are in need of further attention.

The primary function of the new system is to computerize the Department's plant records. The speed and size of the system will also enable it to store and make instantly available secondary information such as mature plant size, flower color and bloom season that has never been so quickly retrievable before.

The Department began its venture into the computer age several years ago when it became one of the first gardens to send its records to the



Photos by LuAnn B. Munns

The Department's new computer now allows for rapid service and more comprehensive plant identification.

IMS Grants Department \$100,000

THE DEPARTMENT also recently received two grants totaling \$100,000 from the Institute of Museum Services which will be used to support the educational and public services programs at the Arboretum, Descanso Garden and the Robinson Gardens. One \$50,000 grant will pay the salaries of the staff members who will computerize plant records at the gardens operated by Los Angeles County. The remainder of the funds will be used for service projects that directly benefit visitors. New labels on plants, an updated grounds map, redesigned brochures, graphic panels on the grounds and cataloging library books will

all be accomplished with a grant awarded for 1984-85.

The IMS, an independent agency formed six years ago within the Department of Education, supports a variety of museums including art, history and natural history museums, aquariums, botanic gardens, planetariums, science-technology centers and zoos.

IMS general operating support grants such as the one awarded to the Arboretum are meant to assist institutions in their educational role and aid in modernizing their methods and facilities so that they may better conserve the nation's cultural, historic and scientific heritage.

Plant Science Data Center of the American Horticultural Society in Mt. Vernon, Va. The Data Center provided a central computer for all of the arboreta in North America, and were leaders in translating plant records into a form usable by computers. From that organization the Department gained knowledge about the basic concept of plant records computerization and experience in using these records. About four years ago the Department left the Data Center and began sending records to the Los Angeles County Data Processing Center as an economy measure. Since the plant collections are constantly growing and changing, the new system offers the major advantage of being instantly accessible to the Department staff for recording changes, additions and deletions necessary to maintain accurate records.

To make sure that the computer starts with only valid information, a mapping and inventory program has been in progress during the past year. The Arboretum grounds are divided into 304 quadrats, each 200 feet square. Plants in each quadrat will be identified and the records constantly updated with new plants entered and dead ones deleted. Data entered into the computer will include such information as the plant's accession number, genus, species, author, family, cultivar, location on the grounds, common name and nativity. Other data include horticultural information, who introduced it to the grounds and where it came from as well as its growth rate. After all the plants at the Arboretum have been processed, the focus of attention will shift to the other gardens until all the plants at Descanso, South Coast and Robinson Gardens

have been brought into the system.

The individual plant labels that show at a glance the name of plants on the grounds will also be recorded in the computer's memory. Visitors will see more and more of the informative 3 x 5 metal display labels that will gradually replace the weathered green plastic tags that now identify plant specimens. In the past, a missing label necessitated a hand search of the card files, a time consuming chore. Now the information can be called up in seconds and a new label quickly prepared using the metal photo processor the CAF purchased last year.

The computer will also serve the public as well as the professional by providing horticultural information in a format that is useful to them. Francis Ching, director, explained: "For instance, if you want a small evergreen tree with yellow flowers in the summer, all you have to do is punch the right buttons, and within seconds you'll have a list of perhaps 30 different kinds of plants and their locations on the grounds." Even further from the living plants, but just as important to people who garden with their head as well as their hands, are the improvements the computer will make in the education program. The system's word processing capabilities will make it much faster to prepare news releases, library catalog cards and articles for Garden magazine and Foundation publications.

After extensive comparisons with other systems on the market, an Alpha Micro multi-terminal unit was purchased. Alpha-Micro was chosen because, among other advantages, it could easily accommodate the three terminals needed by the Arboretum. The system has a memory that will store 20 megabytes of information, roughly 7,000 pages of single-spaced text. The system later can be expanded to more than 100 megabytes. The Department needed a system

with this size memory because the inventory of plants at the Arboretum alone will include more than 11,000 entries. To handle the special needs of the Department, Alpha-Micro designed a special software program.

The computer was not cheap. The initial cost was \$25,000 from CAF for the system and almost \$50,000 from the Institute of Museum Services for the manpower needed to make it operational. But now the Department has the equipment it needs to remain among the nation's leaders in botanical and horticultural studies.

NEW REFERENCE WORKS IN PLANT SCIENCE LIBRARY

Roadside Plants of Southern California, by Thomas J. Balzer

Where Have All the Wildflowers Gone? A Region-by-Region Guide to Threatened or Endangered U.S. Wildflowers, by Robert H. Mohlenbrock

Climbers and Wall Plants, including Clematis, Roses and Wisteria, by Peter Q. Rose

Vegetables in the Tropics, by H. D. Tindall

The Gardens at Giverny: A View of Monet's World, by Stephen Shore

Flowering Plants in Australia, ed. by B.D. Morley and H.R. Toelken

The Beautiful Food Garden: Encyclopedia of Attractive Food Plants, by Kate Rogers Gessert

The Camellia Story, by Tom Durrant

The Lives of Plants, by Doris M. Stone

Camellias, by Chang Hung Ta and Bruce Bartholomew

The Sansevieria Book, by Hermine Stover

World Vegetables: Principles, Production and Nutritive Values, by Mas Yamaguchi

The Complete Shade Gardener, by George Schenk



Staffers Jack McCaskill and David Lofgren double check plant information cards before transferring data to computer input form.



Herbarium Curator Suzanne Granger looks ahead as another quadrat is marked and recorded.

The Mountain Flowers of Southern Tanzania: A Field Guide to the Common Flowers, by P. J. Cribb and G. P. Leedal

Dried Flowers for All Seasons, by Betty Smith Wiita

The Art of Chinese Gardens, by Chung Wah Nan

The Paphiopedilum Grower's Manual, by Lance A. Birk

The Butterfly Gardener, by Miriam Rothschild & Clive Farrell

The Bamboo Book, by Roger Stover

The Heirloom Gardener, by Carolyn Jabs

Vegetable Growing Handbook, 2nd ed., by Walter E. Splitstoesser

Wild Medicine in Australia, by A. B. and J. W. Cribb. Sydney Fontana/Collins, 1981. Distr. in the U.S. by ISBS. This interesting book by the authors of *Wild Food in Australia* can best be summarized by indicating the chapter contents. After a general introduction, they discuss the plants used by the aborigines, those used by the pioneers, plants introduced through the Euro-

pean tradition and other cultures, and plants used for drug or aphrodisiac purposes. An unusual chapter in this kind of book is the one on plants that have been studied in research programs. In these cases, chemicals have been found that explain the medicinal effects attributed to the plants by traditional users. The book is written in a friendly style that makes it of interest to the casual reader as well as to the person seeking specific information on medicinal plants.

—JOAN DEFATO

Shrubs and Trees for Australian Gardens, by Ernest E. Lord. 4th ed., part. rev. Melbourne, Lothian Publ. Co., c1970. Distr. in the U.S. by ISBS. This book, covering both Australian and non-Australian woody plants, is marvelous for selecting appropriate material. In the descriptive lists of trees, Lord gives botanical name, common name, whether evergreen, height, outstanding characteristic, country of origin and a brief description. This is followed

by lists of trees for specific uses or conditions. Shrubs are treated in similar fashion. Although the title does not indicate it, the book includes climbing plants as well. An indication of the usefulness of the book is the fact that it has been available for 35 years.

—JOAN DEFATO

The Wildflowers of Wilson's Promontory National Park by J. Ros. Garnet. Melbourne, Lothian Publ. Co. 1971. Distr. in the U.S. by ISBS. Wilson's Promontory, on the coast of Victoria, Australia, is of interest because of the diversity of its flora and the similarity of that flora to that of Tasmania and New Zealand. A good part of the text is made up of checklists of plants reported from the park, but there is also a section with brief descriptions and line drawings of 151 of the vascular plants. Nine plants are illustrated with color photos and a number of others are illustrated in black and white.

—JOAN DEFATO

LOS ANGELES STATE & COUNTY ARBORETUM, Arcadia

SEPT. 1, 2, 3 — 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Fern and Exotic Plant Show

Los Angeles International Fern Society

SEPT. 9 — 2 p.m.

"Herbs from Garden to Kitchen,"

a talk

Norma Johanson

SEPT. 10 — 9 a.m. to noon

First meeting, Perennial Plants class

Jan Zalba

SEPT. 10 — 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

First meeting, Bonsai class

Ben Suzuki

SEPT. 10 — 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

First meeting, Plant Identification class

Dr. Leonid Enari

SEPT. 14 — 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

First meeting, Ikebana class

Reiko Kawamura

SEPT. 15, 16 — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Ivy Show

Cal. Chapter of the American Ivy Soc.

SEPT. 23 — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Turtle Show

Calif. Turtle and Tortoise Club

SEPT. 23 — 10 a.m.

Historical Walking Tour

Sandra Snider

SEPT. 29, 30 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Bonsai Show

Akebono Bonsai Society

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER
1984

OCT. 19 THRU 28th — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
GARDEN SHOW '84

NOV. 17, 18 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Bonsai Show

Santa Anita Bonsai Society

All events sponsored by the

California Arboretum Foundation

DESCANSO GARDENS, La Canada

AUG. 31 - SEPT. 27

Artists of the Month

Hei Hyun & Ruth Schrier

OCT. 13, 14 — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Benefit Plant Sale

Descanso Gardens Guild

OCT. 21 — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Auto Show

Horseless Carriage Club of So. Cal.

OCT. 24 - NOV. 20

Artists of the Month

The Pasadena Society of Artists

NOV. 3, 4 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Chrysanthemum Show

Glendale Chrysanthemum Society

NOV. 10, 11 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Ikebana International

Los Angeles Chapter #4

All events sponsored by the

Descanso Gardens Guild

SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN, Palos Verdes Peninsula

SEPT. 9 — 2 p.m.

"An Exaltation of Larks," a lecture

Eric Brooks & Linda Farrier

SEPT. 23 — 2 p.m.

"Gardening with an Expert," a lecture

Ray Villasenor

SEPT. 30 — 2 p.m.

Demonstration of Natural Crafts

Dorothy Barnes

OCT. 7 — 2 p.m.

Landscaping Lecture

Richard Jark

OCT. 14 — 2 p.m.

Wreath-making Demonstration

Suzy Seamans

OCT. 21 — 2 p.m.

Orchid Lecture

William Paylen

OCT. 27, 28 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Bonsai Show

South Coast Bonsai Society

All events sponsored by the

South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation